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# Branson Briefs

monthly e-Newsletter for

community providing information  
about upcoming activities, projects and events in the city of Branson

Volume I, Issue 10

November 2009

## City financial update

Through August 2009 of this fiscal year, the city's sales tax revenues are up .1% or \$10,206 when compared to this same period in 2008. The fiscal year runs from October to September.

The tourism tax revenue, which is the tax on lodging, ticketed attractions and restaurants, ended the fiscal year in September down 6.4% from 2008 fiscal year.

Overall, governmental revenues are 6.7% less than the budgeted amount; however, the expenditures are down by 14.2% to what was budgeted. Therefore, the city has a positive net change in fund balance of \$2.4 million.

The city is anticipating a decrease in sales tax revenues in future months, but this decrease has been factored into the 2010 budget.

## Alderman resigns



Ward 3 Alderman Stephen Marshall resigned from the Board of Aldermen. In announcing his resignation October 13, Marshall cited the need to concentrate on his business and spend more time with family. Marshall is vice president and general manager of the Chateau on the Lake Resort Spa and Convention Center. Marshall was first elected to the Board in April 2007 and reelected last April. Residents in Ward 3 interested in filling Marshall's vacant seat can contact Mayor Presley. The Mayor and Board will appoint a replacement to serve until the next municipal election in April 2010.

## Citywide fall cleanup week of Nov 16

The city will be conducting its annual fall cleanup the week of November 16. This cleanup helps residents properly dispose of large unwanted items at no cost. Pickup for residents in Ward 1 will be Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, Ward 2 on Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> and Ward 3 on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup>. Brush and limbs will be picked up in all three wards on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

For the collection of exceptionally heavy items such as sleeper sofas or chest freezers, residents are asked to please call 337-8561 at least 24 hours before their scheduled pick-up day. A separate truck will pick up these items.

## Residents recycling

In 2008, the **Branson Recycle Center** saw more than 20,000 vehicles drive through with area residents and businesses dropping off recyclable material. The Center recycled 133 tons of cardboard, 62 tons of glass, 31 tons of phone books and 342 tons of other items like plastic, tin, aluminum and paper. Old electronic equipment was also recycled including 90 TVs and 293 computers. Recycling reduces trash in landfills and decreases our dependence on natural resources like oil and trees. The center is located at 601 Compton Drive and open Tuesday – Saturday 8 a.m. to noon and Thursdays 4-6 p.m.

## Welcome signs greet visitors



Branson now has **welcome signs** along north and south U.S. Highway 65 to greet the millions of visitors driving into the city. The southbound welcome sign is between the Ozark Mountain Highroad and the Bee Creek interchanges. The northbound sign is just north of the U.S. 65 Lake Taneycomo Bridge.

## Branson Area Festival Of Lights Opens

The Branson Area Festival of Lights mile-long drive-through opened Nov. 1. The entrance is across from Sight & Sound Theatre on Expressway Lane. There are more than 170 displays including a 40-by-100 foot Santa's Castle and 16-arch Tunnel of Lights. Open nightly from dusk until 11 p.m. through Jan. 2.

### City of Branson

110 W. Maddux  
Branson, MO 65616

417-334-3345

417-334-6095 fax

[www.bransonmo.gov](http://www.bransonmo.gov)

### Hours

8-a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Monday – Friday

### Mayor

Raeanne Presley

### Board of Aldermen

Stan Barker

Cris Bohinc

Rick Davis

Stephen Marshall

Bob Simmons

Sandra Williams

### City Administrator

Dean Kruithof

### Board of Aldermen

#### meeting schedule

2nd & 4th Tuesday  
of each month

7 p.m.

Council Chambers

City Hall

**City offices closed**

**Wednesday,**

**November 11 in**

**honor of Veterans**

**Day**

## Citizens' Service Request Line

If you need a question answered about the city, or need to report a problem or express a concern, contact the Citizens' Service Request line at 337-8502. The line is open 24/7 and the city will respond to your request within five working days.

You can also e-mail a request from the city of Branson website [www.bransonmo.gov](http://www.bransonmo.gov).

In 2008, the city received and responded to 179 citizen requests.



**City offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 26 & 27 in observance of Thanksgiving**

**November 20 – Great American Smokeout sponsored by the American Cancer Society. Smokers are urged to “give up” tobacco use for the day. The Smokeout focuses awareness on the health risks of smoking.**



## Branson Airport adds flights to Florida

**Branson Airport** has announced the addition of nonstop flights between Branson and Orlando, Florida beginning December 19. The service will be provided by AirTran Airways. The flights will be on Saturdays only with flights leaving Branson at 3:20 p.m. and arriving in Orlando at 6:40 p.m. From Orlando, flights will leave at 1:10 p.m. and arrive in Branson at 2:45 p.m. For more information and ticket purchases, go to [www.FlyBranson.com](http://www.FlyBranson.com).

## Branson selected for Project Homeless Connect

In October 2010, Branson will host the second **Project Homeless Connect** sponsored by the Governor's Committee to End Homelessness (GCEH). Project Homeless Connect is a one-day, one-stop event that connects individuals and families experiencing homelessness with on-site medical care, access to shelter and housing, food, clothing, legal assistance, child care assistance, employment resources and other social services. Missouri's first GCEH-sponsored Project Homeless Connect was held in Columbia last August..

## City awarded grant for trail improvements

Branson is the recipient of a \$1,500 grant from the Ozark Mountain Nature Trails Association (OMNTA) for improvements at the Lakeside Forest Wilderness Area. The grant will be used for trail markers and signs at the Wilderness Area to enhance the experience of hikers by providing convenient direction and park information.

Lakeside Forest Wilderness Area is a 130 acre natural park that features hiking trails, an observation deck overlooking Lake Taneycomo and 315 historic stone steps built in the 1930s that descend to the lake. It's located on Fall Creek Road just south of Highway 76.



## City teams with county health department to combat underage drinking

The Taney County Health Department and city of Branson have partnered to form an **Underage Drinking Prevention Coalition**. Its purpose is to keep alcohol out of the hands of underage youth through education and strict liquor code enforcement. The Coalition is always seeking more participants and if you or your group is interested, contact Kara Miller, health educator, Taney County Health Department, 334-4544 or e-mail at [millek2@lpha.mopublic.org](mailto:millek2@lpha.mopublic.org).

## Traffic solution in place for Thanksgiving shoppers

With the weekend after Thanksgiving the biggest shopping time of the year, and with Branson one of the most popular shopping destinations in the state, city officials want to again make driving to shopping centers as hassle-free as possible.

**“Thanksgiving Traffic Solution”** is a plan where Branson police and public works departments team up to move motorists more efficiently around the city on Friday, November 27 and Saturday, November 28. Thanksgiving Traffic Solution stations extra police officers at the busiest intersections directing traffic, and puts public works employees wearing orange vests around the city to distribute city maps and provide directions to visitors.



## Homecoming for veterans

America's largest Veterans Day celebration, "Veterans Homecoming Week", takes place in Branson November 5-11. This 7-day tribute includes many special events, several of which are free, and all of which present patriotic salutes to veterans. The theme for 2009 is **“Branson Doesn't Forget our Military and Their Families.”** It's always an honor for Branson entertainers and community members, young and old, to pay tribute to America's heroes. Branson's traditional Veterans Day Parade is held on November 11 at 11 a.m. in downtown. For additional information, go to [www.bransonveterans.com](http://www.bransonveterans.com).

## Gretna Road designated as “Avenue of Freedom”

A portion of Gretna Road has been dedicated as the “Avenue of Freedom.” This section of Gretna between Highway 248 and Roark Valley Road is where the Branson Veterans Task Force, who requested the dedication, has installed and maintains American flags on light poles. The Gretna Road name is not affected and will remain the official name for mapping and addressing. However, signs will be installed designating that portion of Gretna as “Avenue of Freedom.”

**Liquor education class Nov 12**  
The next city sponsored liquor education class will be held November 12 at 9:30 a.m. at Branson City Hall. These classes are for servers and sellers of alcohol. The training is required of all businesses selling liquor in the city of Branson or businesses that are in the process of obtaining a liquor license.

*The next time you're enjoying the good life in our town, spare a minute to think about the hardworking people who make it possible — the women and men who serve in your local government.*

Show your support of our past and current military personnel by attending the annual **Branson Veterans Day Parade on Wednesday, November 11 at 11 a.m. in downtown Branson**

## **“Greening Up Branson?”** **City of Branson’s “Sustainability Education Series”** **6 p.m. Tuesdays Before Council Meetings** **City Council Chambers** **Public Invited**

5-part series to run October thru December 8, one hour prior to regular city council meetings.

Mayor Raeanne Presley encourages citizens to attend. The series also is available on this city website.

The sessions, featuring guest speakers, are designed to inform city leaders and citizens on ways to implement sustainable or green initiatives in both the private and public sectors.

## ***Fall Creek Road opens with a celebration***



Rock-U-Mentally perform at the opening of Fall Creek Road

The opening of the new Fall Creek Road extension was held October 10 with a street festival. More than 150 people turned out for ice cream, a Ride the Ducks tour of the new road, entertainment by the musical group Rock-U-Mentally and a display of classic cars. Rock-U-Mentally encouraged the attendees to exercise their imaginations and chalk draw on the street.

The new Fall Creek extension connects Highway 76 with James Epps Road at the Roark Valley intersection. The three lane road will allow motorists to travel from Highway 248 all the way south to Missouri Highway 165.

The speed limit for the new extension is 35 mph.



Families use their imaginations to create chalk drawings on the new Fall Creek Road.

## ***Branson a very safe city according to most recent crime stats***



“I would feel safe walking with my wife in any part of Branson.” That’s what Branson Police Chief Carroll McCullough told participants of the Branson Citizens Academy, and the most recent crime report compiled by the police and sent to the FBI substantiate McCullough’s comments. Total crimes against persons, which include murder, rape and assault, are down 12% for the first nine months of 2009 compared to 2008. In fact during that time period there were no homicides or rapes. Assaults decreased from 195 in 2008 to 177 this year. Those figures are truly amazing considering the millions of people who are in this popular tourist destination throughout the year.

## ***City recipient of Tommy Moose gifts***

Tommy Moose, representing the Moose International organization, presented stuffed Tommy Moose dolls and Halloween treat bags to the police, fire and police departments to benefit area children. Police and fire departments received plush Tommy Moose dolls to be given to children involved in fires, accidents, domestic violence or other traumatic events. Tommy Moose also gave the Branson Parks and Recreation Department 1,500 trick-or-treat bags for the department’s safe Halloween event at the RecPlex called BOOnanza.



Fire Chief Carl Sparks with Tommy Moose



Police Chief Carroll McCullough and Capt. EJ Jones

Shawn Baile (left) with Moose International, Parks & Recreation Department Director Cindy Shook (center) and Recreation Specialist Kelli Tucker

